

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT L 00859 262215Z

61

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 010142

O 262005Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6171

S E C R E T PORT LOUIS 0859

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XA US MP

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM ON
SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM IN HIS OFFICE FOR NINETY MINUTES SEPTEMBER 26. EVEN BEFORE WE GOT INTO SUBJECT RAMGOOLAM PRAISED YOUR DETERMINED EFFORTS TO SOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AFTER PRESENTING TALKING POINTS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA I ASKED HIM TO GIVE US HIS VIEWS AND HIS ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN REACTIONS TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. RAMGOOLAM SAID HIS PERSONAL VIEW, SPEAKING AS PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS BUT NOT AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU, IS FOUNDED ON HIS BELIEF IN PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. SOMEONE WHO AGREES WITH THIS POINT OF VIEW, HE SAID, IS NKOMO, A PERSON HE HAS KNOWN AS A FRIEND FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND WHOM HE ADVISED YEARS AGO TO ACCEPT THE BRITISH PROPOSAL (THE MCLEOD FORMULA). HAD NKOMO DONE SO, THERE WOULD BE NO RHODESIAN PROBLEM TODAY. NKOMO IS A REASONABLE MAN, BUT MUZOREWA IS A DIFFERENT STORY, HE SAID.

2. RAMGOOLAM SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS WITH CROSLAND AND CALLAGHAN IN LONDON FOLLOWING OAU SUMMIT IN JULY AND HAD SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT THEY TRY TO PERSUADE THE U.S. TO MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO ENCOURAGE DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS. THEY HAD BEEN SKEPTICAL AND HAD DOUBTED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PORT L 00859 262215Z

THAT SMITH COULD EVER BE BROUGHT TO DECLARE IN FAVOR OF

MAJORITY RULE. RAMGOOLAM SAID HE ARGUED AGAINST THEIR SKEPTICISM AND TRIED TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS.

3. AS FOR THE OAU, RAMGOOLAM SAID, THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF VIEWS, SOME OF THEM EXTREME (E.G., SOMALIA). BUT OF THE KEY PEOPLE KAUNDA IS MATURE, REASONABLE AND A MAN OF PEACE, AND NYERERE CAN BE HELPFUL TOO. NKOMO SHOULD BE GLAD TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED SOLUTION. RAMGOOLAM SAID THERE IS ONE MAJOR PROBLEM, SMITH'S PAST PERFORMANCE, WHICH IS NOT GOOD. PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM CALL HIM A LIAR. ALSO, IF THE GUERRILLA FORCES ARE DISMANTLED AND THEY ALL GO HOME THERE WILL BE THE HIGH COST OF THEIR REINTEGRATION. CAN THE OAU BEAR THIS COST? THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS OF REHABILITATION FOR THIS FORCE, WHICH NUMBERS 20 - 25,000, HE ESTIMATED, BUT THIS WOULD STILL BE PREFERABLE TO PEOPLE KILLING EACH OTHER.

4. PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD BE "FOOLISH" FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO REJECT THIS EFFORT OF THE U.S. EXCEPT FOR "STRAY PEOPLE LIKE SIAD BARRE," THE WORLD RECEPTION WILL BE GOOD, IN HIS OPINION. TO CALL A SPECIAL OAU MEETING BARRE WOULD NEED THE SUPPORT OF ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERSHIP (16 COUNTRIES). THE OAU HAD DECIDED TO TURN THIS PROBLEM OVER TO THE FIVE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, AND HE WAS NO REASON TO CHANGE THAT POLICY; ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE WILL BE AN OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE NOT UNITED, AND THIS WAS A GENUINE PROBLEM. THAT IS ONE REASON HE WELCOMED THE "U.S. PROPOSALS," AS THEY MAY SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DISUNITY AMONG THE LIBERATION LEADERS.

5. GETTING DOWN TO SPECIFICS, RAMGOOLAM SAID HE WAS TROUBLED BY PROPOSAL THAT MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER WOULD BE WHITES IN INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED IN A WAY THAT WOULD GIVE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONFIDENCE ABOUT RETURNING HOME. THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT THE SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE DISPELLED RAPIDLY. THE QUESTION IS, WHO WOULD COMMAND THE RHODESIAN MILITARY FORCES? THEY ARE WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED AND THE GUERRILLAS RETURNING HOME WOULD HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR SECURITY. THEN THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF THE DEMOBILIZED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PORT L 00859 262215Z

FORCES THEMSELVES AND WHO WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM. MACHEL WOULD BE A PROBLEM, TOO. HE IS NOT AN EASY MAN TO DEAL WITH, RAMGOOLAM SAID, FOR HE HAS CERTAIN DOCTRINAIRE IDEAS AND SOMEONE MUST PERSUADE HIM. (I COMMENTED THAT MACHEL IS PERHAPS EASIER TO DEAL WITH NOW THAN THREE MONTHS AGO AS HE AND HIS PEOPLE NOW REALIZE THE COST TO MOZAMBIQUE OF THE DECISIONS THEY TOOK TO CUT OFF RHODESIA AND TO SUPPORT GUERRILLA OPERATIONS FROM MOZAMBIQUE.)

6. CONCLUDING, RAMGOOLAM SAID, "WHEN YOU SEE DR. KISSINGER TELL HIM HE'S DOING QUITE WELL. WE SHOULD PAY TRIBUTE TO HIS PATIENCE AND PERSEVERENCE, AND TO HIS PERSUASIVE POWERS. THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT ACHEIVEMENT." I ANSWERED THAT HE COULD BE ASSURED WE WOULD KEEP UP THE PRESSURE TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. ON HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE WHITE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER, I SAID THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OF LIMITED DURATION, AND A SECOND RESTRAINT WOULD BE THE FACT THAT THE FIRST MINISTER WOULD BE BLACK. RAMGOOLAM CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE GUERRILLA FIGHTERS ONCE THEY STOP FIGHTING. HE SIAD IT REQUIRED YEARS TO GALVANIZE THESE MOVEMENTS, TO RECRUIT THE FIGHTERS, EQUIP AND TRAIN THEM. ONCE THEY ARE DISBANDED, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY HAD TO BE MOBILIZED AGAIN? WHERE WOULD ALL THAT HARD WORK GO?

7. I STRESSED THAT THE WISHES OF THE BLACKS INSIDE RHODESIA HAD TO BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH THOSE OUTSIDE. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THE KEY ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BOTH IN CONVINCING SMITH THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS REQUIRED AND IN CONTROLLING THE SUPPLY ROUTES TO RHODESIA WHICH HELPED ASSURE THAT ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. PRIME MINISTER ASKED WHEN GUERRILLAS WOULD LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. I SAID THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS DO NOT NOW SUPPORT A CEASE-FIRE UNTIL AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED, AND A CEASE-FIRE WOULD GROW OUT OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE NATIONALISTS AND THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES.

8. I TOLD RAMGOOLAM THAT WE WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND WE HOPED HE WOULD KEEP HIS EYES FOCUSSED ON A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE RESPONDED THAT WHEN I NEXT SAW KAUNDA I COULD TELL HIM THAT HE SUPPORTED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, PEACE WITH HONOR, AND WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THAT END.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 PORT L 00859 262215Z

9. COMMENT: RAMGOOLAM'S ATTITUDE IS A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AND CONSULTING HIM WAS A GOOD IDEA. ON THE OTHER HAND IN FACE OF OPPOSITION - I AM UNCLEAR AS TO ACTUAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE LUSAKA MEETING OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS - HE WILL NOT BE A LEADER. HOWEVER HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A VOICE OF MODERATION AND REASON.

10. OBVIOUSLY NEXT KEY CONVERSATION WILL BE WITH KAUNDA AND WHOMEVER ELSE IS IN BOTSWANA. I WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTS ON LUSAKA MEETING, BRITISH REACTION AND US PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY TALKS THERE.
KEELEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 09/26/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTL00859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850038-2454
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760918/aaaaapoi.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, PDEV, XA, US, MP, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR), (SCHAUFEL, WILLIAM E JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006